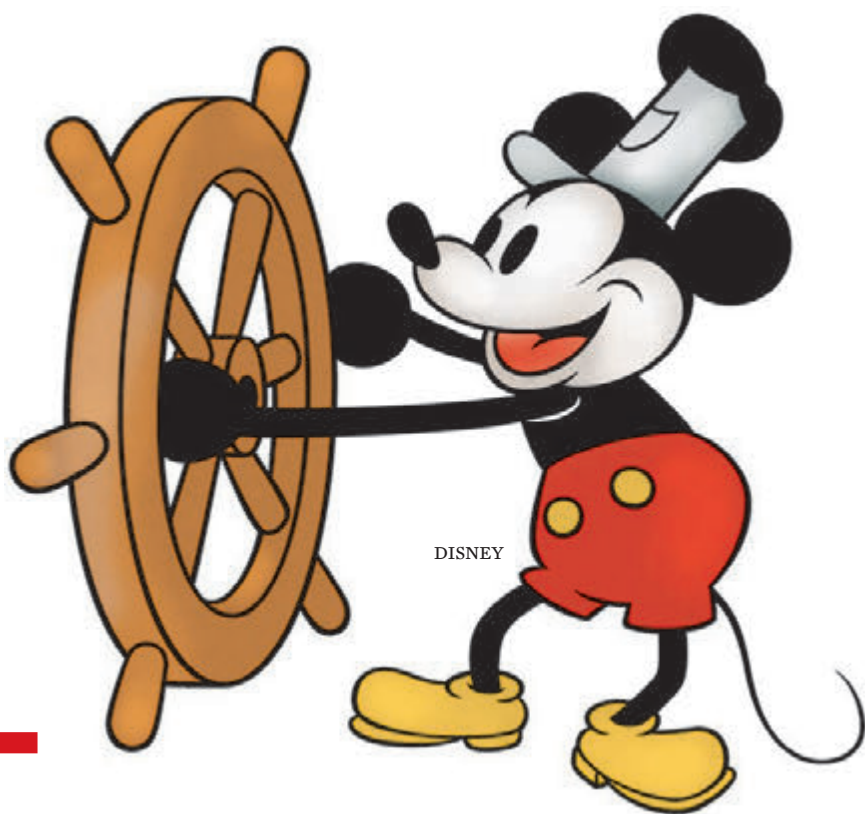




STEAMBOAT WILLIE, NOVEMBER 18, 1928

Mickey isn't just the most famous mouse on the planet, he's history's most iconic cartoon character who also happens to moonlight as the most recognized corporate identity of any company in the world. He's literally the face of one of the biggest media companies ever. Those are a whole lot of roles for a rodent to fill. Even if you're anthropomorphic. He's also a birthday boy as Walt Disney's most beloved creation turns 90 today. Here's a look at a few of the things you might not know about Mickey ...



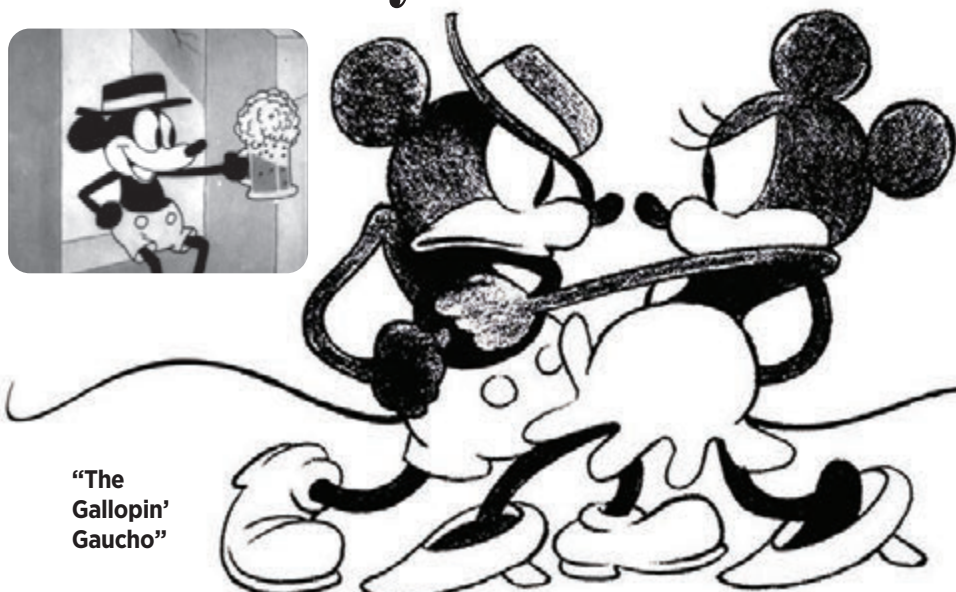
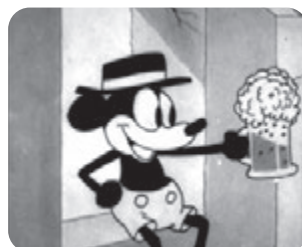
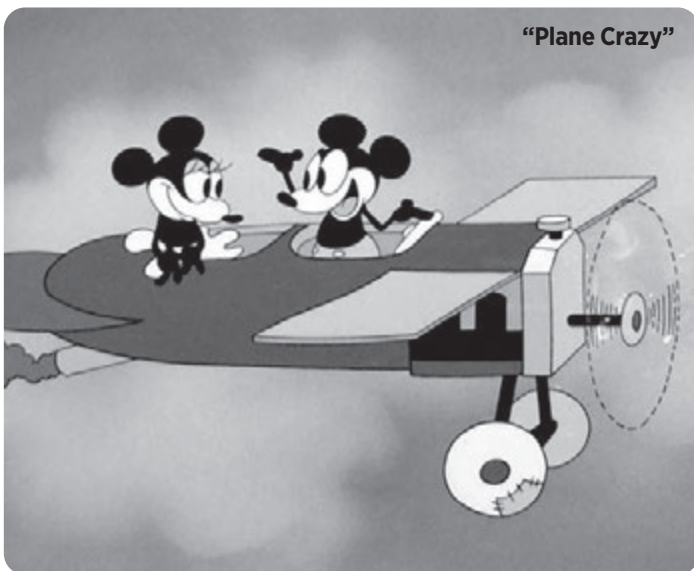
HAPPY 90TH MICKEY MOUSE

A mouse by any other name ...

Walt Disney initially named Mickey Mouse "Mortimer," until Walt's wife, Lillian, suggested "Mickey" was a better choice.

'Steamboat' not actually the first Mickey film

"Steamboat Willie" was released on this day in 1928 as the first short film starring Mickey Mouse, but it was actually the third created. The first two, "Plane Crazy" and "The Gallopin' Gaucho," initially failed to find distributors, but were picked up and released later.



'Hot dog!'

The first Mickey short in which Mickey spoke was "The Karnival Kid," the ninth Mickey short. His first words: "Hot dog!"

Walt Disney wasn't satisfied with the first few actors chosen to provide a voice for Mickey Mouse, so he did it, and continued to do so through about 1947.



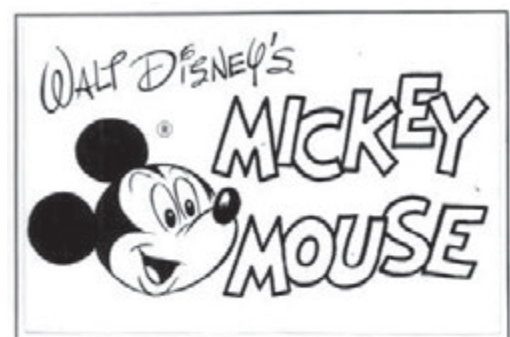
Mouse merch

The first piece of Mickey Mouse merchandise was a tablet of paper that featured the mouse, designed for children. The first Mickey Mouse doll was designed in 1930.



Newspaper man, er mouse

A Mickey Mouse comic strip, penned by Ub Iwerks, launched in January 1930, and at its height was printed in 40 newspapers in 22 countries.



Mousing around in Macy's parade

Mickey Mouse made his debut appearance in the "Macy's Santa Claus Parade" (now "Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade") in 1934. Measuring 40 feet tall, the balloon was hand-painted and guided by men and women dressed in Mickey/Minnie Mouse costumes.



Partners

The Partners Statue, a sculpture of Walt and Mickey holding hands, debuted at Disneyland Park on Mickey's birthday in 1993. A second Partners Statue debuted at Magic Kingdom Park at Walt Disney World Resort in 1995.

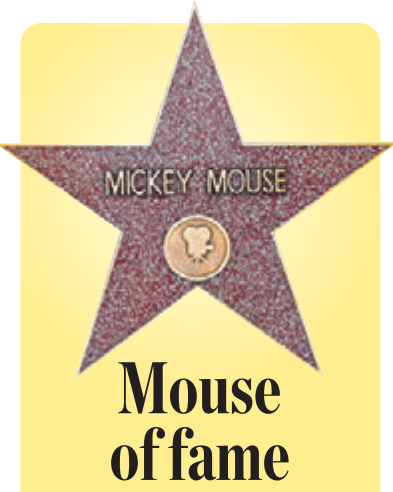
The "Partners" statue stands tall in front of Sleeping Beauty Castle in the spring of 2015 at Disneyland.

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER



It takes a village

When Walt Disney was contemplating a name for his first theme park (Disneyland park), he once considered calling it "Mickey Mouse Village."



Mouse of fame

Mickey Mouse was the first animated character to have a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, which was given on his birthday in 1978.